

EXAMINER'S SUPPLEMENTARY AMENDMENT

1. The response to a telephone interview with Applicants' Representative (See, interview summary attached hereto) on 04 and 16 August 2011, the following Office Action follows.

Claims Status

2. Following is the status of the Claims:

- ⌘ Claims 16 and 25 have currently been cancelled;
- ⌘ Claims 1, 11-12, 18, 21, 23-24, 26 and 29 have currently been amended.; and
- ⌘ Claims 1-15, 17-24 and 26-30 are currently pending and are examined on merits.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview on 16 August 2011 with Mr. B.J. Sadoff, Applicants' Representative.

Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims in the instant application.

1. (Currently Amended) A tubular tissue growth guide comprising:

an inner core comprising a biopolymer matrix seeded with cells;

an outer sheath surrounding said inner core;
said inner core being tethered to said outer sheath only at opposing ends of said guide;
said seeded cells providing [[e]] mechanical tension in said core between the tethered opposing ends.

15. (Currently Amended) A tubular guide according to claim 1, wherein said outer sheath is selected from the group consisting of ~~[[H]]~~silicone, phosphate glass, polylactone, polyglycone, polycapryolactone, hyaluronan or derivatives thereof, collagen, fibrin, fibronectin, cellulose, chitosan, and starch.

4. Any comments considered necessary by Applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Conclusion

5. Claims 1-15, 17-24 and 26-30 are allowed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kailash C. Srivastava whose telephone number is (571) 272-0923. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. (Eastern Standard or Daylight Savings Time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sue X. Liu can be reached at (571)-272-5539 Monday through Friday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (i.e., PAIR) system. Status information for the published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public

PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (i.e., EBC) at: (866)-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kailash C Srivastava/
Kailash C. Srivastava
Examiner, Art Unit 1653
(571) 272-0923

/JON P WEBER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1657